THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration to telecast a few promotional films through Star TV to attract foreign tourists.

(c) The Star TV network covers 30 countries in South-East Asia, Asia and the Middle East, all of which are potential tourist generating markets.

(d) Details are yet to be worked out.

Contradiction in New Exim policy

3655. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any discrimination in the new EXIM policy and the procedure formulated for achieving the objective under the same;

(b) whether a wide contradiction between the spirit of the policy and the procedure adopted for the purpose resulted in wide scale rejections of the applications submitted under value based advance licences;

(c) whether the whole purpose of the scheme was to insist on input-output norms even in the case of value based advance licence applications;

(d) if so, what was the need for introducing such a scheme;

(e) whether Government have received complaints/representations in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government to these representations to ensure that the scheme, does not end in a fiasco?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The main purpose of the scheme is to promote exports by providing inputs duty free and at international prices. The applicants for value based advance licensing scheme are required to give the quantity-wise/value-wise details of imports as well as exports as per their actual requirements to establish the input output and value addition norms. These details are required for two purposes; firstly to limit the import of sensitive items as defined in Public Notice No. 2-ITC (PN)/92-97 dated 31.3.1992, to the prescribed limit of quantity or value or both and secondly to convert the value based advance licensing scheme to quantity based advance licensing scheme under Para 128 of the Hand Book of Procedures to fix the penalties for default and regularise such cases.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Comolaints/representations received so far have been attended to The Government has changed certain norms of value addition and modified certain input-output norms on the basis of such representations by talking to the exporters and their associations. As it is a continuous process, such complaints will be looked into and the norms modified wherever necessary. The value based advance licensing scheme has been received well and is becoming increasingly popular.

Plight of India Trade services officers

3656. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Indian Trade Service have made a number of representations for the improvement of their career prospects and to bring them at par with other Central Services recruited through the Combined Civil Service Examination;

(b) whether their service conditions are less attractive as compared to other similar Class I Services;

(c) if so, the action taken to improve their career prospects;

(d) whether these officers are also being considered for appointment as commercial representatives in our Missions abroad;

(e) whether it is also a fact that such posts are paid for by his Ministry; and